

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of TAJAH JONES, Minor.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, f/k/a
FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

UNPUBLISHED
October 25, 2005

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

STEVEN MATTHEW JONES,

Respondent-Appellant.

No. 261660
Oakland Circuit Court
Family Division
LC No. 04-699610-NA

Before: Gage, P.J., and Hoekstra, and Murray, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent appeals as of right from an order terminating his parental rights to the minor child pursuant to MCL 712A.19b(3)(g) and (j). We affirm. This appeal is being decided without oral argument pursuant to MCR 7.214(E).

Respondent pleaded no contest to the allegations in the petition, and his sole argument on appeal is that the trial court erred in terminating his parental rights because termination was clearly not in the child's best interests. If a statutory ground for termination is established, the trial court must terminate parental rights unless there exists clear evidence, on the whole record, that termination is not in the child's best interests. MCL 712A.19b(5); *In re Trejo*, 462 Mich 341, 353; 612 NW2d 407 (2000). Respondent attacked the child's mother on two occasions, threatening to set her on fire. One of the occurrences took place in front of the child. Such behavior, although directed at the child's mother, could cause the trial court to reasonably conclude that the child's safety was at issue. Because the child's safety was at issue, the trial court properly determined that termination was not contrary to her best interests.

Affirmed.

/s/ Hilda R. Gage
/s/ Joel P. Hoekstra
/s/ Christopher M. Murray